

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/930,673	WHIPPLE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ashok B. Patel	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to 10/06/2006.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-4, 6-13, 15-17 and 19-27 (Total 23 claims).

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - All
  - Some\*
  - None
 of the:
  - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
 Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**NATHAN J. FLYNN**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**

#### Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 2-4, 6-13, 15-17 and 19-27 are allowed. Claims 1, 5, 14 and 18 are cancelled.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steven J. Laureanti on 12/12/2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

**A. In the claims:**

- a. Claims 1, 5, 14 and 18 are cancelled.
- b. Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for facilitating communication in a distributed network environment, the system comprising:

a request broker, implemented as a servlet operating at a Secure Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTPS) web server within a hub system, operable to:

receive a network application program interface (API) request component from one or more clients within the distributed network environment, the one or more clients located remote from the hub system, the network API request component comprising a description of a system API method to be called and one or more parameters to be used in executing the system API method, the parameters having one of a plurality of acceptable

native formats; formats, wherein the plurality of acceptable native formats comprise formats selected from the group consisting of Extensible Markup Language (XML), Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), and serialized object formats;

    determine the native format of the parameters;

    communicate the parameters in the native format to a selected one of a plurality of translators for translation of the parameters from the native format to an internal format, format wherein the internal format comprises serialized object format, each translator being associated with a different native format; and format and the parameters being converted into serialized object classes by the selected translator; and

    communicate the parameters in the internal format to an application server within the hub system, to enable execution of the system API method according to the parameters; and

    the application server system, operable to receive the parameters from the request broker in the internal format, generate a return value reflecting execution of the system API method according to the parameters, and communicate the return value to the request broker in the internal format;

    the request broker further operable to receive the return value from the application server system in the internal format, communicate the return value in the internal format to the selected translator for translation of the return value from the internal format to the native format, generate a network API reply component that comprises the description of the system API method

that was called and the return value in the native format, and communicate the network API reply component to the one or more clients; and

a system firewall having a plurality of ports, the system maintaining at least one port of the system firewall open for communication with the one or more clients, the one or more clients initiating a connection to the system through the at least one open port of the system firewall to communicate the network API request component to the request broker, independent of any port of a client firewall being open for communication with the system.

c. Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating communication in a distributed network environment, the method comprising:

receiving a network application program interface (API) request component at a request broker implemented as a servlet operating at a Secure Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTPS) web server within a hub system from one or more clients within the distributed network environment, the one or more clients located remote from the hub system, the network API request component comprising a description of a system API method to be called and one or more parameters to be used in executing the system API method, the parameters having one of a plurality of acceptable native ~~formats~~; formats, wherein the acceptable native formats comprise formats selected from the group consisting of Extensible Markup Language (XML), Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), and serialized object formats;

determining the native format of the parameters at the request broker;

communicating the parameters in the native format from the request broker to a selected one of a plurality of translators for translation of the parameters from the native format to an internal format; format wherein the internal format comprises serialized object format, each translator being associated with a different native format; format and the parameters being converted into serialized object classes by the selected translator;

communicating the parameters in the internal format from the request broker to an application server system within the hub system, to enable execution of the system API method according to the parameters;

receiving a return value at the request broker from the application server system in the internal format;

communicating the return value from the request broker to the selected translator for translation of the return value from the internal format to the native format;

generating a network API reply component at the request broker comprising the description of the system API method that was called and the return value in the native format;

communicating the network API reply component from the request broker to the one or more clients;

maintaining at least one of a plurality of ports of a system firewall open for communication with the one or more clients; and

accepting a connection initiated by the one or more clients through the at least one open port of the system firewall to allow the one or more clients to communicate the

network API request component to the request broker, independent of any port of a client firewall being open for communication.

d. Claim 27. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for facilitating communication in a distributed network environment, the system comprising: means for receiving a network application program interface (API) request component at a request broker implemented as a servlet operating at a Secure Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTPS) web server within a hub system from one or more clients within the distributed network environment, the one or more clients located remote from the hub system, the network API request component comprising a description of a system API method to be called and one or more parameters to be used in executing the system API method, the parameters having one of a plurality of acceptable native formats; formats, wherein the plurality of acceptable native formats comprise formats selected from the group consisting of Extensible Markup Language (XML), Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), and serialized object formats;

means for determining the native format of the parameters at the request broker;

means for communicating the parameters in the native format from the request broker to a selected one of a plurality of translators for translation of the parameters from the native format to an internal format, format wherein the internal format comprises serialized object format, each translator being associated with a different native format; format and the parameters being converted into serialized object classes by the selected translator;

means for communicating the parameters in the internal format from the request broker to an application server system within the hub system, to enable execution of the system API method according to the parameters;

means for receiving a return value from the application server system at the request broker reflecting execution of the system API method according to the parameters;

means for communicating the return value in the internal format from the request broker to the selected translator for translation of the return value from the internal format to the native format;

means for generating a network API reply component at the request broker comprising the description of the system API method that was called and the return value in the native format;

means for communicating the network API reply component from the request broker to the one or more clients; means for maintaining at least one of a plurality of ports of a system firewall open for communication with the one or more clients; and

means for accepting a connection initiated by the one or more clients through the at least one open port of the system firewall to allow the one or more clients to communicate the network API request component to the request broker, independent of any port of a client firewall being open for communication.

#### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments that neither Braddy nor Hobbs disclose are persuasive as presented in response dated 10/06/2006. None of the prior arts of record teach or suggest the claimed limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached o If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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